



Department of Health and Human Services  
 Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory  
 221 State Street  
 # 12 State House Station  
 Augusta, Maine 04333-0012  
 Tel: (207) 287-2727; Fax: (207) 287-6832  
 TTY: 1-800-606-0215

**2019-Novel Coronavirus Virus Detection using Real-Time RT-PCR**  
**Laboratory Submission Information Sheet**

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes: 2019-Novel Coronavirus is a Notifiable Condition. If you have not already done so, please report suspect or confirmed cases to the Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24hrs/day 7 days/week.)</li> </ul>
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes: Specimens from patients with suspected novel coronavirus must be submitted.</li> </ul>
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information.</li> <li>• <b>Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name and be accompanied by HETL requisition.</b></li> </ul>
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Respiratory: nasopharyngeal aspirate/wash or nasopharyngeal AND oropharyngeal (throat) swabs in viral transport media or sterile saline. All swabs should be in individual tubes.</li> <li>• Lower Respiratory: bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirates, or sputum.</li> <li>• Serum for future immunological studies at Federal CDC</li> </ul>
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect specimens in leak proof containers.</li> <li>• Specimens can be stored at 2-4°C for up to 72 hours after collection. Send specimens on ice packs.</li> <li>• If a delay in shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or lower and send on dry ice.</li> </ul>
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown if sent to Federal CDC</li> <li>• 24-48 hours, depending on number of specimens in queue, if testing performed at HETL.</li> </ul>
Unacceptable Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specimens not kept at 2-4°C (≤4 days) or frozen at -70°C or below.</li> <li>• Incomplete specimen labeling or documentation.</li> <li>• Inappropriate specimen type.</li> <li>• Insufficient specimen volume.</li> <li>• Swab not in Viral Transport Media (VTM) or sterile saline</li> <li>• Swabs with wooden shafts</li> <li>• Swabs with calcium alginate or cotton tips</li> </ul>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results will be reported to the submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax, Maine CDC infectious disease epidemiology, and Federal CDC. Results are for the presumptive identification of 2019-nCoV RNA. Negative results do not preclude 2019-nCoV infection and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or other patient management decisions.</li> </ul>
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no cost for 2019-Novel Coronavirus Virus Detection using Real-Time RT-PCR test when approved by the Maine CDC.</li> </ul>
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 87798</li> </ul>
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bacteriology at 207-287-1704, Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, and Serology at 207-287-1722</li> <li>• Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769</li> <li>• Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706</li> </ul>